



Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

BDE PROCEDURE MEMORANDUM

NUMBER: 4-00

**SUBJECT: Rules and Regulations Governing Sealing of Abandoned
Water Wells**

DATE: April 3, 2000

This memorandum supersedes and replaces Design Memorandum 90-20, dated July 1, 1990.

Section 920.120 of the Illinois Water Well Construction Code, issued pursuant to Section 14 of the Illinois Groundwater Protection Act (P.A. 85-863) requires that to safeguard public health and welfare, all abandoned water wells be sealed so as to prevent the pollution of underground aquifers by seepage from the surface or from other aquifers at different levels.

Except for drilled wells which require the employment of a licensed well contractor or other person certified by the Department of Public Health, wells may be filled under the supervision of the Resident Engineer.

When an existing water well to be abandoned is discovered during the right-of-way acquisition, the attached form, "REPORT ON EXISTING WELLS TO BE ABANDONED" shall be filled out, preferably in the field, and submitted to the Bureau of Bridges and Structures. If the existence of the water well to be abandoned is discovered at a later date, the above mentioned form shall be completed and submitted as soon as feasible.

The engineering geologists in the Bureau of Bridges and Structures will review the physical features of the well, relate them to the known geology of other wells in the area, and prepare an appropriate special provision for insertion in the contract, setting forth the method of sealing that complies best with Section 920.120, Abandoned Wells, of the Illinois Water Well Construction Code.

The special provision for drilled wells will require the filling to be done under the supervision of an Inspector from the Department of Public Health. The Inspector will require 48-hour notice of the filling of a drilled well. A listing of Inspectors may be obtained from the Bureau of Construction.

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Immediately after the sealing of the well, two completed, properly executed, Water Well Sealing forms of the Department of Public Health are required. One is to be filed with the Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health, at Springfield, and one with the District Office of the Department of Transportation.

The Service Bulletin advises the contractor of the rules of the Department of Public Health with the following paragraph:

FILLING EXISTING WATER WELLS. All existing water wells which are to be abandoned shall be sealed in conformity with Section 920.120 of the Illinois Water Well Construction Code of the Department of Public Health, issued pursuant to Section 14 of the Illinois Groundwater Protection Act (P.A. 85863). It shall be the responsibility of the contractor to comply with all provisions of this Act.

Engineer of Design and Environment Michael J. Hine

Attachment

REPORT ON EXISTING WELL TO BE ABANDONED

Route: _____ Farm (well) Name: _____
*Section: _____ *Ground Elev.: _____
Station & Offset: _____ *Location: _____ 1/4 of _____ 1/4
County: _____ of Section _____ Township _____ Range _____
*Job No. P _____
Drilling Permit Number _____ Kind of Tools _____
Drilling Permit Date _____ Date Drilled _____
Permit Issued to: _____
Present Property Owner _____ Address _____
Drilling Contractor _____ Address _____

AQUIFER

*Depth of Well _____ *Diameter _____
*Depth to Top of Water _____
Depth and Thickness of Aquifer (there may be more than one) _____

Type of Aquifer (check) _____ Coarse Gravel _____ Sand
_____ Sandstone _____ Creviced Sandstone _____ Limestone
_____ Other (Specify) _____, _____ Indeterminate.

EQUIPMENT

*Liner (check) _____ Brick _____ Masonry _____ Pipe
*Diameter of Liner _____
Screen, depth of top and bottom _____
Gravel packing or envelope (depth to top) _____
Type of Pump _____
Depth to cylinder _____

*Items marked with asterisk are needed to provide specifications for filling existing water wells. The other items are needed by the Water Well Sealing Form, Department of Public Health. Fill in as much of these as are known or can be determined in conversation with the owner, former owner or water well contractor.